



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the Colorado River Watershed

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Activities

Number of Applications Received	.....7
Number of Applications Contracted	.....4
Dollar Amount Approved	.....\$198,612
Acres Under Contract	.....5,183

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Activities

Number of Applications Received	....1
Number of Applications Contracted	...0
Dollar Amount Approved	.....0
Acres Under Contract	.....0
Statewide, 10 applications for \$4,483,489 are on a waiting list to fund 3,141 acres.	

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities

County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Boulder	Farm	1	63.6	\$95,656
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Montezuma	Ranch	2	936	\$1,363,000
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Saguache	Ranch	8	4,606	\$1,734,520
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		15	7,024	\$4,405,632

matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Statewide Activity

Applications Received	.....206
Applications Contracted	.....6
Dollars Approved	.....\$2,588,372
Acres Under Contract	.....13,679

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. EQIP provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP may cost share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices.

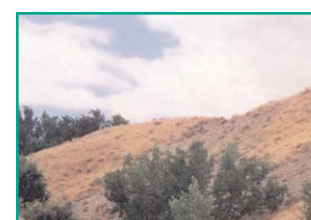
FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Colorado River Watershed

Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	61	23	\$899,908
Grassland	10	10	\$141,304
Wildlife	1	0	\$0
Riparian	9	4	\$214,930
Water Quality/Waste	6	3	\$147,387
Forestry	3	3	\$95,000
Salinity - Grand Junction	72	35	\$810,807
Salinity - Wildlife	3	1	\$58,223
Total	165	79	\$2,367,559

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202.720.5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Watershed Profile

Colorado River Watershed



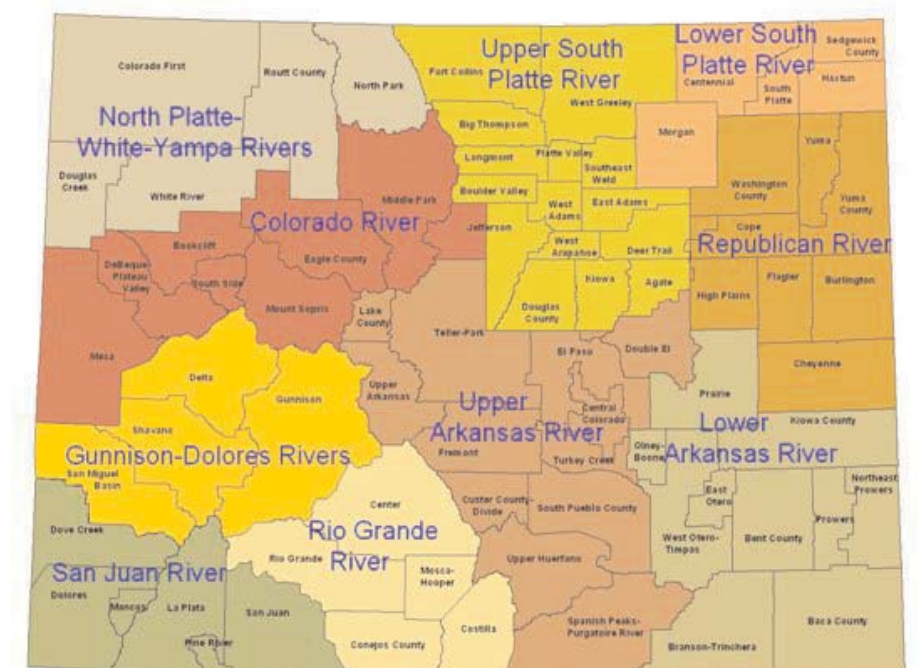
Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff



The Colorado River Watershed totals 7,097,000 acres and includes all of Clear Creek, Eagle, Grand, Mesa, Pitkin, and Summit Counties, as well as portions of Garfield, Gilpin, and Gunnison Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, and Kremmling USDA Field Service Centers to provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Colorado River Watershed there are seven Conservation Districts which organized a locally-led watershed work group that identified its major resource concerns as water quality and quantity, land use management, noxious weeds, and rangeland. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and Conservation Districts



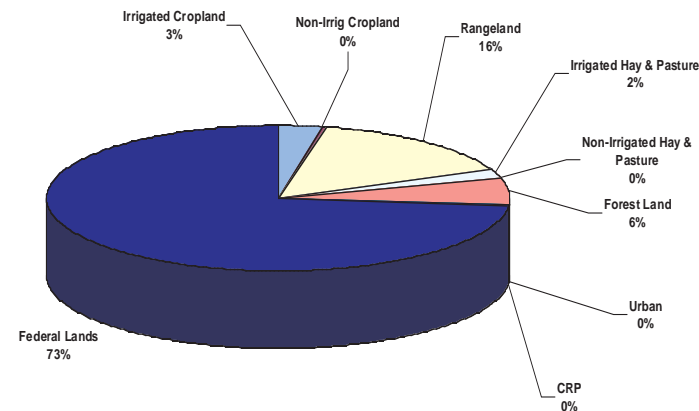
High Priority Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

Water Quality Water Quantity Rangeland Noxious Weeds Land Use Management

Land Use

Colorado River Watershed Land Use 2004

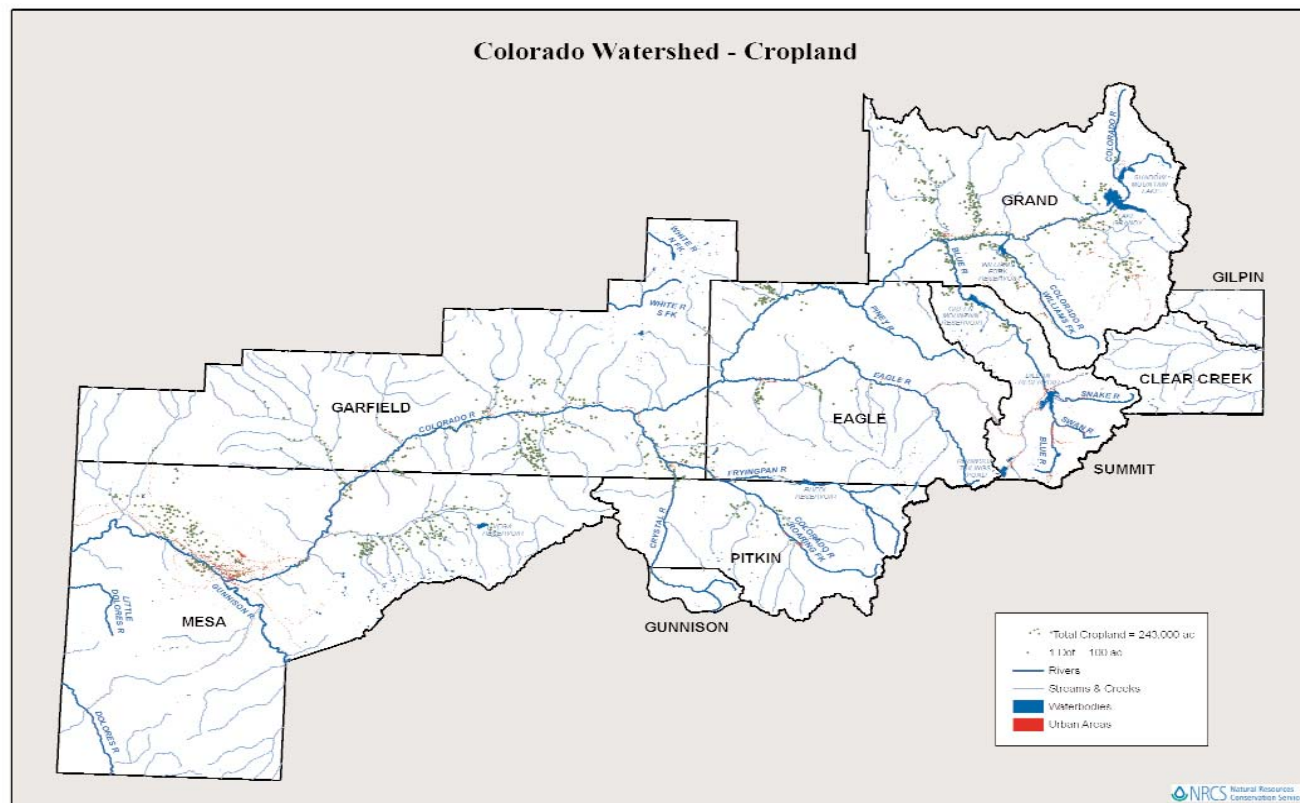


7,097,000 Acres

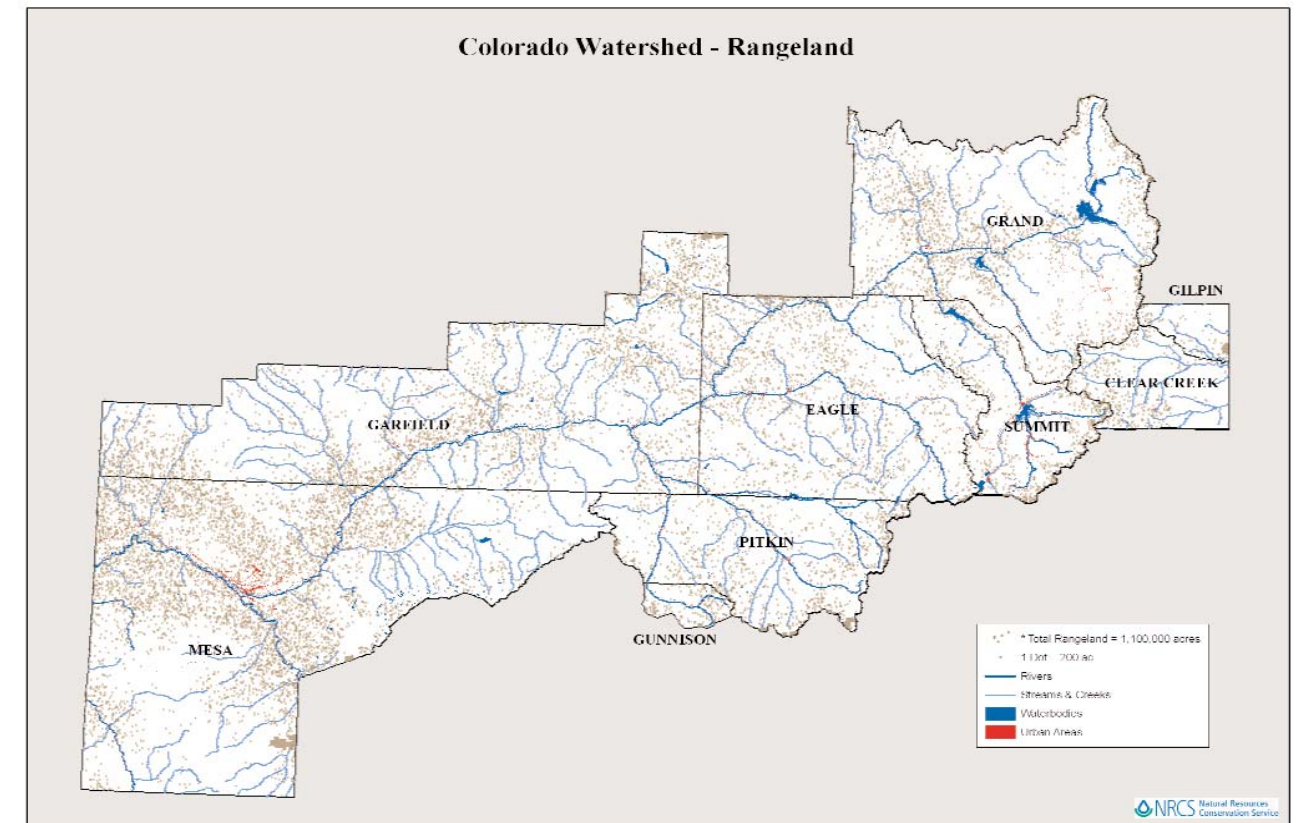
Acres

Irrigated Cropland	216,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland	13,000
Rangeland	1,100,000
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	128,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	3,000
Forestland	413,000
Urban	19,000
CRP	3,727
Federal Land	5,200,000

Colorado Watershed - Cropland



Colorado Watershed - Rangeland



Colorado River Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall

